

# GRÂNDOLA VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

WE WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD



**GRÂNDOLA VOLUNTARY  
LOCAL REVIEW  
WE WANT TO  
CHANGE THE WORLD**



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## [TECHNICAL FILE]



**TITLE .** We want to change the world – Grândola Voluntary Local Review

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# [ACRONYMS]➡

<b>RVL</b>	Relatório Voluntário Local
<b>VLR</b>	Voluntary Local Review
<b>ODS</b>	Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>CESOP</b>	Centre for Studies and Opinion Polls (CESOP) – Local, Catholic University of Portugal – Catholic University
<b>ISM</b>	Municipal Sustainability Index
<b>NUTS</b>	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistical purposes
<b>HLPF</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Organisation
<b>CSMG</b>	Grândola Municipal Sustainability Council
<b>RICD</b>	Intermunicipal Network for Development Cooperation
<b>IHR</b>	Social Integration Income

<b>CLDS 5G</b>	Local Social Development Contracts - Fifth Generation
<b>NLGPI</b>	Local Children's Guarantee Centre
<b>PVS</b>	Solidarity Living Programme
<b>GPMG</b>	Psychology Office of the Municipality of Grândola
<b>AAAF</b>	Family Support Activities
<b>ENIND</b>	National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination
<b>PTRNAVVD</b>	Protocol for the Territorialisation of the National Support Network for Victims of Domestic Violence
<b>ZIL</b>	Light Industry Zone
<b>PIT</b>	Personal Income Tax
<b>AMP</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>VEP</b>	Visions – Strategies – Projects



## [OPENING STATEMENT]

*The President of the  
Municipality of Grândola,*  
**António Figueira Mendes**

The municipality of Grândola has long been committed to the principles and core values of sustainable development, adopting and applying them in its public policies, as well as in its strategies for consolidating a more prosperous, fair and inclusive municipality. From the outset, we advocated that the desired prosperity had to be at the service of the people, contributing first and foremost to their well-being, comfort and quality of life, in an orderly and environmentally protected territory. It was therefore only natural that, in 2016, the municipality made a public commitment to realise the goals set by the United Nations within the framework of Agenda 2030, claiming that the set of sustainable development goals outlined at the time corresponded to the strategic objectives of the municipality of Grândola and that the policies that had been developed

were globally in line with the goals set. It was also pointed out that direct monitoring of the degree to which the objectives had been achieved would certainly help to strengthen and adapt the municipality's social policies, increasingly improving the quality of the service provided to the community and giving even more substance to the course of affirming a territory in which no one, anywhere, can be left behind.

It was ultimately assumed that the commitment to sustainable development was a municipal imperative, symbolically and inherently tied to the municipality of Grândola's association with the values of freedom, democracy, solidarity, and sustainable and inclusive social development, through the enduring link between the land of fraternity and the 25th of April and its generous ideals.

The preparation of Grândola's Voluntary Local Review is, in this sense, a decisive step along the path we are following – with responsibility and determination – towards a better future.

This must be an action plan for all the people of Grândola – one in which the entire community is engaged and can see itself reflected, defining the initiatives that must be implemented to substantially improve the lives of citizens, and to achieve widely shared prosperity in a land where the people will always hold the greatest power. The VLR must also represent the first formal commitment by Grândola to the Pact for the Future, recently established by the United Nations, extending the promotion of sustainable development in all its dimensions beyond 2030.

In the troubled world we live in, the challenges we face are growing and increasingly concerning. Grândola's Voluntary Local Review is a demonstration of our shared commitment to transforming the world into a space that belongs to everyone, includes everyone, and works for everyone.

It is, ultimately, an expression of the deep confidence we have in the collective future we are building. Together, we will reach the end of the road – in the sunlight of the ideals of Liberty, Fraternity, and Sustainability.



*President of the Municipal  
Assembly of Grândola*

**Rafael Rodrigues**

## [CARING FOR THE PRESENT]

When, in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the 2030 Agenda – setting out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with a broad set of targets – the global political landscape was significantly different from what we are witnessing today. While some longstanding international conflicts persist – such as the situation in Palestine, which today has devastating humanitarian consequences, particularly in Gaza – new ones have emerged, including the ongoing war in Ukraine. These are compounded by changes in government in certain countries where policies now strongly favour capitalist models, casting a shadow over the near future. The denial of certain environmental realities has led to the reversal of measures aimed at reducing



fossil fuel use, with a renewed focus on their continued exploitation. As a result, in less than five months, humanity consumes the planet's resources for an entire year – a stark reminder of our unsustainable path. All of this underscores the urgent need to adopt immediate measures and to constantly question whether our choices are truly serving the majority. As the Argentinian poet-singer Facundo Cabral once said: "Take care of the present, because it is there that you will live for the rest of your life."

What must be challenged is a political and economic system built on speculation and the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few individuals and groups. Social inequalities will not be resolved by the "miracle" of tax cuts or through charitable, segregating policies, but through a fairer distribution of income and the wealth created – something that can only be achieved by better valuing labour, since it is workers who are the true and essential creators of wealth. The SDGs came at the right time and remain a crucial tool for shaping policies that safeguard the well-being of the population, enhancing people's comfort, capabilities, and their freedom to participate in decisions at all levels of governance. Citizenship and partnerships are even more crucial within the framework of Democratic Local Government. The decision by the Municipality of Grândola to commit to the SDGs and integrate them into municipal policies and management documents was a significant step towards finding more sustainable, community-focused solutions, and building partnerships that ensure everyone has a voice. Communication, the sharing of experiences, and the ability to listen to others without prejudice are fundamental to defining policies in which all can see themselves reflected – and that are aligned with the SDGs. Talking about the future without caring for the present may well lead us to a place we never wished to reach. We must all participate actively, because we are the ones who know best how to care for ourselves. Question yourselves. And question others. Always. Individual contributions matter — but only the sum of all parts can produce truly sustainable results.



PRAÇA DA LIBERDADE

## [EXECUTIVE SUMMARY]

Grândola's Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a strategic document that reflects the municipality's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This executive summary provides an overview of the initiative, its objectives, impacts, and benefits for the region. Grândola recognises the importance of adopting sustainable strategies to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. The VLR documents the municipality's progress in implementing the SDGs locally, demonstrating both transparency and a strong commitment to a more sustainable future.

This SDG localisation project aims to: monitor and assess the degree to which the SDGs have materialised in the local context; involve the community and the various local players in building sustainable solutions; strengthen public policies in line with the 2030 Agenda and promote Grândola's international visibility as an example of sustainability and innovation.

Considering the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, the present VLR will be a roadmap for increasing social inclusion and promoting the continuous improvement of citizens' quality of life; contributing to the definition and implementation of measures for ecological preservation and combating climate change; and stimulating economic growth based on shared prosperity. Grândola's Voluntary Local Review highlights the role of the municipality and its community in building a fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable future. By staying the course set out in this report, it is expected to have a positive and transformative impact on the quality of life of its citizens and the harmonious development of the region – leaving no one behind.



# 1. [INTRODUCTION]

Grândola is a municipality rooted in liberty, fraternity, and rising democracy – where “the people are the ones who rule.” It stands as a symbol of shared prosperity, inclusive governance, and institutional innovation, set within a territory blessed

by nature and environmentally and scenically well-preserved. Recognised as a municipality of *April* – in tribute to the song by José Afonso dedicated to the democratic and fraternal spirit of the people of Grândola, which became the national signal for the Carnation Revolution – Grândola boasts several distinctive features. These include its natural landscape, agriculture, tourism, history, heritage, culture, and climate.

Located in the Alentejo region, specifically in the Alentejo Litoral sub-region, Grândola belongs to the district of Setúbal. It spans an area of 826 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the fifteenth largest municipality in Portugal by total area. It borders Alcácer do Sal to the north, Santiago do Cacém to the south, Ferreira do Alentejo to the east, and has a broad Atlantic coastline to the west, stretching over 42 km and bathed by the Atlantic Ocean.

Grândola has an estimated population of 14,165 inhabitants – a figure that does not yet fully account for the significant influx of immigration over the past two years. Nevertheless, population density remains well below the national average and is roughly in line with the Alentejo region, at 17 inhabitants per square kilometre.





MEMORIAL

In terms of economic activity, Grândola presents a relatively diversified economy, with tourism as the dominant sector — driven by recent surges in demand and the concurrent construction of multiple long-approved tourist developments, offering up to 14,294 beds at full capacity. In agriculture, the municipality is noted for its production of cereals, fruit, olive oil, and wine, as well as livestock farming and cork extraction from its cork oak forests (*montado de sobreiro*). As of 2021, there were six cork industry companies operating in the municipality, representing 0.7% of the national total.

Regarding natural and scenic heritage, part of the municipality falls within the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, created to support activities compatible with the estuarine ecosystem's balance and the sustainable use of its resources. The estuary is also a vital feeding and resting area for many bird species, some of which are threatened. Other ecologically significant areas

include the Grândola Mountain Range, covered predominantly with cork oaks producing some of the finest cork in Portugal, and the Melides Lagoon, known for its small islands of hydrophilic vegetation.

In terms of culture, the municipality of Grândola is an open-air museum. The town of Grândola itself is a symbol of the freedom linked to the 25th of April 1974. The area is home to numerous megalithic monuments, Roman and medieval remains. Traditional festivals abound, closely tied to the region's rich and varied gastronomy, which blends the aromas of the sea with the bold flavours of the Alentejo.

In addition to its vast Atlantic front, Grândola's strategic location adds to its appeal: just an hour from both Lisbon and the Algarve, close to the port of Sines, with excellent road connections (via the A2), and a rail link that connects it to Porto in just four and a half hours.

## 2. [METHODOLOGY]

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) was developed as a continuation of the ongoing municipal programme, with a focus on transferring and sharing knowledge. The entire process was carried out through a harmonious partnership between the municipal team and *GlobalSolutions4U*.

The aim is to produce a tool that serves as a roadmap for achieving the SDGs in Grândola. This research benefited from the contributions of many partners, including civil society, academia, and local businesses operating within the municipality.

The format of this report was based on the *Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of SDG implementation produced by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2020)*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> \*It is also worth highlighting all the knowledge acquired from UN Habitat (Habitat, 2020) (UNHabitat & UCLG, 2021), from UNECE (UNECE, 2021), from UNESCAP (UNESCAP, 2020), from UNCRD (UNCRD, 2022a) (UNCRD, 2022b), from the European Union (Siragusa A., P., & C., 2020), the IGES (Koike, Hirotaika; Ortiz-Moya, Fernando; Kataoka, Yatsuka; Fujino, 202AD) and some VLRS, including the Bristol one, and the VLRS produced in Japan, as they were the first and were articulated with the respective VNR. (Fox & Macleod, 2019) (Macleod & Aguirre, 2022) , (Koike, Hirotaika; Ortiz-Moya, Fernando; Kataoka, Yatsuka; Fujino, 202AD) ; (Hamamatsu & IGES, 2019) ; (Toyama & IGES, 2018) . (Neves, 2020)



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### CESOP data

For the set of quantified data associated with targets and indicators, the 2024 Municipal Sustainability Index (ISM) from Centre for Studies and Opinion Polls (CESOP) – Local, Catholic University of Portugal (Abreu, Joao, & Cerol, 2024) was used, which reflects the evolution of Portuguese indicators since 2017.

The ISM is a partnership between Portuguese municipalities and the CESOP-Local Applied Research Unit of the Catholic University, in support of sustainable development at the local level in Portugal. CESOP-Local monitors the sustainability performance of the territory, the stakeholder engagement dynamics, and the operational performance of municipal organisations.

The ISM localises, measures, and monitors the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda in each municipality. Data collection across Portuguese municipalities enables comparative analysis at the national level. It is a strategic tool that supports municipal planning and highlights the role of local communities as key agents of development. Given the scope of the ISM, the full dataset – covering various levels of comparison (Municipality of Grândola, Alentejo Litoral NUTS III, Alentejo NUTS II, and Portugal) – is included in an annex to the VLR. For the SDG-by-SDG sectoral analysis featured

in this report, only two indicators were selected per goal: one positive and one negative. The inclusion of negative values encourages future improvement and highlights priority areas. Presenting only positive data would result in a limited and unbalanced analysis – something this report seeks to avoid.

This report was based on the key strategic documents listed in Annex 4.

### Process Development

The strategy's first step was to create a municipal team trained and motivated to transmit the SDG culture, involving all municipal structures, civil society and companies.

The second step involved engaging and sharing with civil society, academia, and the private sector to create a global movement for the pursuit and achievement of the SDGs. In this context, the establishment of the Grândola Municipal Sustainability Council (CSMG) in 2024 is particularly noteworthy. This structure is open to all local associations and entities and is tasked with coordinating and sharing responsibilities and resources among its member institutions. It fosters active and committed cooperation in the pursuit of fully achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets – contributing to the consolidation of a more prosperous, just, fraternal, and inclusive world, where no one is left behind.

The third step is the current drafting of the VLR, in which the initial work has been deepened through data collection, the selection of targets and indicators, and the implementation of a management and monitoring process. In the course of this process – and given the absence of a document outlining a vision or visions for 2030, 2040, or 2050 – a series of working sessions were held, generating a fluid and growing stream of Visions – Strategies – Projects (VEP). These sessions ensured the creation of a realistic and achievable action plan.

The preparation of the VLR will contribute to shaping a vision of what Grândola could become by 2030. It is therefore also a pro-

cess that will lead to a list of transformational projects, grounded in the municipality's experience with sustainable development. Based on the report's findings, it becomes possible to plan the next steps and improve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Local governments are encouraged to participate actively in sessions and debates associated with the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), where they can share their experiences and lessons learned from the VLR process with governments from other regions. Through the VLR, each region takes stock of the progress made and assesses the advances and gaps in achieving the SDGs and their targets. It is an inclusive process that should involve all relevant regional stakeholders. That is why it is crucial to integrate the process – and the insights it provides – into the broader strategy for implementing the SDGs. Only in this way can effective monitoring and continuous engagement of all parties be ensured. Measuring and publicising the SDG impact will help municipalities to attract stakeholders, improve sustainability-driven decision-making, and strengthen long-term commitment.

# 3. [INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT]

## THE COMMITMENT TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

On 25 February 2016, during its ordinary meeting, the Municipal Council of Grândola unanimously approved the municipality's accession to the SDG Alliance, thereby making a firm commitment to continue developing policies that would enable the full achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established at the UN Summit in New York in September 2015. It also pledged to actively cooperate, within the framework of the SDG Alliance, with all entities working towards this shared objective. The SDG Alliance was the first organisation of its kind created in Portugal, bringing together entities from the business sector, participants of the UN Global Compact, and other organisations, including several municipalities. Its creation reflected the recognition that, although the SDGs are global in nature, their success depends on being promoted, communicated, and implemented effectively within each individual country.

Since that moment, the integration of the SDGs into the municipality's public policies has steadily increased, alongside a clear and ongoing commitment to actions and initiatives aimed at achieving the defined targets.

In 2017, the municipality participated in the 3rd Plenary Meeting of the SDG Alliance in Portugal, alongside a broad range of civil society organisations, businesses, NGOs, and other entities. Similarly, through its involvement in the Intermunicipal Network for Development Cooperation (RICD), the municipality supported, during RICD's first extraordinary general assembly, the approval of a proposal for all network members to sign a commitment to pursue the SDGs within their territories. At the same time, the RICD's formal accession to the SDG Alliance was ratified, binding all municipalities within the association to that commitment.

In 2018, municipal staff participated in the technical training session *Globalisation and Development*, held within the framework of the initiative The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Global Paths, Local Paths: Reflecting on and Applying the SDGs at the Local Level, promoted by the Intermunicipal Network for Development Cooperation (RICD). Alongside this, Grândola hosted the training session *Education for Development*, also part of the same initiative, involving all southern Portuguese municipalities within the network.

Also in 2018, during an official visit to Grândola by a delegation from the municipality of Tarrafal, Santiago Island, Cape Verde, a joint declaration was signed on 26 April. In this declaration, both municipalities affirmed their strong commitment to contributing – within the framework of the development cooperation networks they are part of – to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2020, the municipality took part in the seminar *Municipalities Towards 2030 – Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development*, held at the Central Services Auditorium of the Seixal Municipal Council.

That same year also saw a local awareness session on the SDGs, attended by all municipal department heads, executive councillors, and the President of the Municipal Assembly. The session



addressed various topics related to the local implementation of the SDGs and the importance of monitoring progress within the municipality in order to ensure their full realisation by 2030. Also noteworthy is the presentation of the show *Chuva no Mar* (Rain in the Sea), performed in three sessions at the Cine Granadeiro – Municipal Auditorium, as part of the Towards 2030 project. The initiative involved local associations and the participation of young people from Grândola. Inspired by SDG 14 – Life Below Water, the performance aimed to raise awareness about the SDGs and emphasise the importance of achieving the set targets by 2030. Combining dance, live and recorded music, and multimedia elements, the show highlighted the urgent need to adopt a sustainable lifestyle that leaves no one behind, securing the planet's future.

In 2021, the municipality took part in the General Assembly of the Intermunicipal Network for Development Cooperation (RICD), where musician Pedro Abrunhosa presented a song composed exclusively to raise awareness of the SDGs, as part of the Towards 2030 project.

That same year marked the municipality's first participation in the CESOP-Local Annual Seminar for Sustainable Development, held under the theme *The SDGs as a Compass for Post-COVID Recovery*. Following this participation, Grândola began the process of joining the CESOP-Local network.

Also in 2021, the municipality joined the project *People and Planet: A Common Destiny*, a pan-European campaign aimed at mobilising young citizens and local-global ("glocal") authorities in the fight against climate change.

In 2022, Grândola took an active role in launching the pan-European campaign *Water Of The Future* on World Water Day, 22 March. The launch took place simultaneously across the nine partner countries of the *People & Planet: A Common Destiny* project – Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Cape Verde – with the ambitious goal of raising awareness among 59 million young people, encoura-



VISITA A GRÂNDOLA DA DELEGAÇÃO DE CABO VERDE EM 2018

ging them to take an active role and mobilise society and policymakers in the fight against the causes and effects of climate change. The campaign focused on one of the major challenges humanity will face in the coming years: water scarcity.

That same year, Grândola formally established a municipal team dedicated to coordinating all SDG-related actions, including the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal implementation in the municipality.

The team actively participated in the May session of the CESOP-Local Seminar Series, dedicated to the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, presented for the first time in Portugal by UN-Habitat, and in the 5th CESOP-Local Annual Seminar, themed *Development by Contagion: The SDGs Beyond the Territory*.

At the invitation of the *People and Planet* project, Grândola presented its local SDG monitoring experience in Pontevedra, Spain, emphasising the importance of having reliable indicators to measure the level of goal achievement. Said indicators enable the municipality to strategically allocate its economic and human resources to key areas for the harmonious, integrated,





ESPECTÁCULO CHUVA NO MAR EM 2020

and sustainable development of the territory – contributing to a more prosperous, fraternal, and inclusive world, where no one is left behind.

In 2023, the municipality hosted the *Innovation and Local Development Seminar* in February, showcasing a best practice example centred on the revitalisation of the mining village of Lousal, in collaboration with the Lousal Live Science Centre. Held via the ZOOM platform, the seminar featured speakers including Councillor Carina Batista (responsible for Social Development, Culture, Cooperation and support to the Associative Movement), Professor Jorge Relvas (President of the Centro Ciência Viva do Lousal Association), Professor Álvaro Pinto (Executive Director of the Centre), and Dr. Nuno Inácio (Senior Officer of the Municipal Service for Historical and Cultural Heritage and Museums). That year, a pilot project was launched in one of the municipality's organisational units, requiring that all proposals submitted for deliberation by the executive body – and recorded in the official meeting minutes – include an indication of which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the proposed measures would contribute to achieving.

The municipality also participated in the 6th CESOP-Local Seminar, titled *Sustainable Development in Action: Accelerating Local Impact through Research and Local Stakeholders*, where the importance of cooperation between society and the research



SESSÃO COM CLARA NÃO EM 2023

ch sector was highlighted as a foundation for integrated governance and the accelerated, ongoing pursuit of the SDGs.

In the year that marked the 10th anniversary of the Intermunicipal Network for Development Cooperation (RICD), member municipalities came together to celebrate 8 years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In October and November, each municipality held flagship events focused on the 17 Global Goals. A highlight was the 17 Days, 17 SDGs initiative, in which each municipality selected one SDG to promote and dedicate a day to its awareness-raising. Grândola chose SDG 5 – Gender Equality, commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with a programme of initiatives that featured artist and activist Clara Não.

In 2024, Grândola was invited by the Portugal SDG Alliance to present its work at the Annual Conference celebrating the Alliance's 8th anniversary. Under the theme *Grândola – Liberty, Fraternity, Sustainability*, the municipality showcased its initiatives across the four pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, economic, and governance. At the conclusion of the presentation, the municipality reaffirmed its commitment to building a more prosperous, fair, and inclusive world, where no one is left behind, declaring that only through this path can the future be truly secured.

The municipality also participated in the online training *Educa-*



PRIMEIRA REUNIÃO DO CONSELHO DE SUSTENTABILIDADE MUNICIPAL – 2024

tion for Development, part of the project *Intersections: Gender Equality and Education for Development*, organised by the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality. Additionally, it conducted local awareness sessions on the SDGs and organised the *Peaceful Towns Competition* – part of the *Mayors for Peace* network – involving children from rural villages in the municipality. As in previous years, Grândola also took part in the Annual CESOP-Local Seminar, which in 2024 focused on the theme *Democracy as the Pillar of a Sustainable Future*.

During the month of September, the municipal team prepared a major initiative aligned with the Global Goals Week. Among the many activities carried out, special mention goes to the collaboration with the Grândola School Cluster, the People and Planet project, the parish councils, and various municipal departments. On 25 September, the first meeting of the Grândola Municipal Sustainability Council was held. During the session, the 2024 Grândola Municipal Sustainability Index was presented by Professor Ricardo Reis, then Director of the CESOP-Local Network. Also presented were the draft commitment charter, outlining the Council's mission, objectives, and operating model, and a keynote address by Professor Pedro das Neves on the importance of Municipal Voluntary Local Reviews.

## 4. [PROGRESS ON GOALS AND TARGETS]



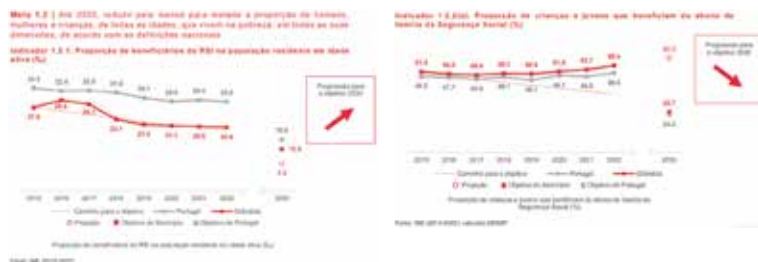
### SDG 1 End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

In a territory undergoing significant economic development, with a resulting increase in employment and business opportunities, the eradication of poverty, in all its forms and in all places, must be a priority of local policy, using all legally available means to ensure equal rights of access to economic resources and to essential services that support people's well-being and quality of life. At a time of full employment, and in a municipality with a very low incidence of natural disasters, it is crucial to ensure that everyone has access to quality food and healthcare, decent housing, and life-long education. At the same time, broad participation in community life must be promoted, so that no one remains invisible.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's overall score for SDG 1 is 72.4, well above the values recorded for both Portugal and the Alentejo region, and nearly ten percentage points higher than the average for the municipalities in its sub-region.

For Indicator 1.2.1, which refers to the proportion of Social Integration Income (RSI) beneficiaries among the working-age resident population, there has been a positive trend in recent years. Even without specific anti-poverty measures, this progress would



I'd allow the municipality to come very close to meeting the established target.

In contrast, Indicator 1.2.2(a), which concerns the proportion of children and young people receiving family allowance from Social Security, shows an opposite trend, with this rate increasing in recent years. This situation calls for careful analysis and the definition of appropriate measures in order to achieve the target.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Numerous social projects are currently being implemented in the municipality of Grândola, aiming at the eradication of poverty. Among them, the following stand out:

- The Local Social Development Contracts – 5th Generation (CLDS 5G) programme, focused on combating poverty and social exclusion, particularly among children and young people, and on promoting a real child guarantee. This is done through the implementation of actions primarily directed at low-income households with children.
- The creation of the Local Unit for the Child Guarantee (NLGPI), under the framework of Council Recommendation 2021/1004/EU of 14 June 2021, with the purpose of preventing and combating social exclusion. This initiative aims to ensure access for children and young people at risk of poverty or social exclusion to a range of essential services (early childhood care and education, school-based activities, healthy food, healthcare, and housing), with a view to tackling child poverty and promoting equal opportunities.



## SDG 2

End Hunger,  
Achieve Food  
Security and  
Improved  
Nutrition, and  
Promote  
Sustainable  
Agriculture

It is not enough to fight hunger or ensure the availability of food — it is crucial to guarantee access to quality nutrition and to respect the land and seas from which it comes. Prioritising sustainable agricultural production, valuing the work of small-scale producers, and ensuring food security are at the core of SDG 2.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

At local, regional, and national levels, overall scores for this goal have shown slight fluctuations – both positive and negative – indicating the need for greater and more meaningful investment in the achievement of SDG 2. It is important to note, however, that SDG 2 has the lowest number of available indicators (3) to assess its level of implementation.



Regarding Grândola:

Indicator 2.4.1 – Proportion of organic agricultural producers and processors (%): The municipality has consistently shown very posi-





HORTAS COMUNITÁRIAS

tive results and is on track to reach the proposed targets by 2030. Indicator 2.2 – Prevalence of overweight (pre-obesity) in children aged 6–8 (%), NUTS II level: As this indicator is calculated at the Alentejo (NUTS II) regional level and not specific to the municipality, achieving this goal will require a joint effort ensuring that regional progress results in tangible local improvements

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

The municipality of Grândola promotes various initiatives that prioritise sustainable agricultural production, the valorisation of local small-scale producers, and healthy eating habits.

Key initiatives include:

- Workshops and gastronomic showcases held at the *Casa Mostra de Produtos Endógenos*, in partnership with the project *emRaiz'Artes*.
- Commemorative events such as World Food Day serve as opportunities to highlight the importance of conscious consumer habits (2023) and the value of local quality (2024). These events include informative sessions, themed recreational activities, nutritional advice, healthy snacks, and exhibitions and sales of organic products.
- In the same area, the *Grândola Community Gardens* project allows the use of municipal land for horticulture, while also fostering community spirit and mutual support.

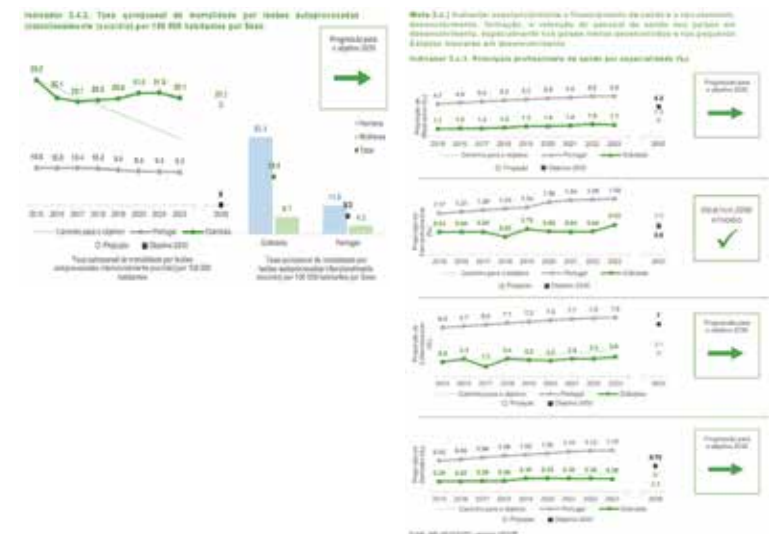


## SDG 3 Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages

Promoting the well-being of the population means not only ensuring access to basic healthcare but also encouraging the development of projects and opportunities aimed at fostering healthy lifestyles beyond traditional settings. Mental health, the fight against social exclusion, and the promotion of healthy practices are essential components in building truly quality healthcare.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The baseline indicators for SDG 3, while showing positive values, have demonstrated a general stagnation at the local, regional, and national levels. A clear example is indicator 3.c.1, which relates to the proportion of health professionals by specialty.





## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Recognising the importance of access to mental health care, the Psychology Office of the Municipality of Grândola (GPMG) offers residents access to qualified mental health professionals. The service is equipped to provide psychological counselling, assessment, follow-up, support, and referral.

**SDG 4**  
Ensure Inclusive  
and Equitable  
Quality  
Education and  
Promote  
Lifelong  
Learning  
Opportunities  
for All

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

In recent years, the municipality of Grândola has made significant progress toward achieving this SDG. It has already met the target measured by indicator 4.2, related to the preschool enrolment rate, and is on a good path to achieving indicator 4.1.2 (b), referring to the transition/completion rate in basic education by level of education, as well as indicator 4.1.2 (c), concerning the proportion of students completing the cycle within the expected







ESCOLA CIÊNCIA VIVA

time, and indicator 4.3.1, which measures the proportion of the adult population enrolled in higher education by 2030. Although there is still a long way to go to meet all the targets in this area – as shown by indicator 4.1.2 (a), which refers to the transition/completion rate in secondary education by course type – this particular indicator was close to its target between 2020 and 2022 but experienced a significant drop in 2023. Nevertheless, the overall trend has been positive.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

The municipality of Grândola actively works on, promotes, and develops various projects in the field of education, considering it fundamental for the sustainable development of the territory.

The *Family Support and Leisure-time Activities Programme* (AAAF) focuses on supporting preschool education by extending childcare services beyond regular school hours, including snack times and supervised care. This programme offers co-payments adjusted to each child's family allowance bracket, making it more accessible to families and reflecting a continuous commitment to improving both the quality of and access to preschool education.

The initiative *Escola Ciência Viva – A Escola é uma Mina* complements regular classes with alternative learning experiences centred on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. In addition to making teaching more dynamic and engaging, it offers innovative educational experiences to primary school pupils regardless of their socio-economic background, promoting equal opportunities from an early age.

Meanwhile, the *emRaizArtes* project, based on citizenship and environmental education for the entire population of the municipality, serves as a valuable tool for non-formal education.

All these projects and initiatives work in complement to make learning more accessible, engaging, and effective for everyone.

5 GENDER  
EQUALITYSDG 5  
Achieve Gender  
Equality and  
Empower All  
Women and  
Girls

Ensuring that around half of the world's population has access to the same rights, dignity, and respect as the other half is the foundation of SDG 5. However, its achievement depends on creating opportunities for girls, young women, and women to occupy and shape spaces so that they are safe and empowering – whether those spaces are schools, workplaces, cultural environments, or political life.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The figures for the indicators related to SDG 5 show a regressive trend, with significant volatility observed in recent years. This is evident, for example, in indicator 5.2.1, which refers to the estimated proportion of victims in recorded crimes of domestic violence by a spouse or equivalent. Also concerning is the increase in the five-year adolescent fertility rate, which rose from 7.7 to 10.1 between 2022 and 2023.

**Meta 5.1.1** Acabar com todas as formas de discriminação contra todas as mulheres e meninas, em toda a parte

**Indicador 5.1.1** Existência de um Protocolo de Cooperação com o Conselho para a Cidadania e Igualdade de Género ou de um Plano Municipal para a Igualdade e Não Discriminação

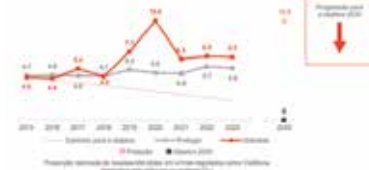
SIM ✓

84% das municípios portugueses assinaram um protocolo com o CGJ ou têm um Plano Municipal para a Igualdade e Não Discriminação

Fonte: INE (2023)

**Meta 5.2** Eliminar todas as formas de violência contra todas as mulheres e meninas nos contextos públicos e privados, incluindo a violência sexual e de controlo por parte de empregadores

**Indicador 5.2.1** Proporção estimada de feminicídios e de crimes registados como violência doméstica por género do agressor (%)



INAUGURAÇÃO OBRA DE ARTE DEDICADA À MULHER GRANDOLENSE – 2024

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Several initiatives have been promoted in Grândola by the municipality or partner entities, through awareness-raising and information campaigns targeting young people (as a preventive measure), strategic and specific groups, and the general public. Said initiatives align with the three action plans of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination – Portugal + Equal (ENIND).

The following are particularly noteworthy:

Within the framework of the Protocol for the Territorialisation of the National Support Network for Victims of Domestic Violence (PTRNAVD), 22 actions were carried out in Grândola in 2024 under the *(des)Igualdades* project. These were organised in partnership with the municipality (3 actions), the Grândola School Cluster (9 actions), and the Professional School of Rural Development of Grândola (12 actions). The themes addressed included *Gender Equality and Dating Violence*, *Non-Violent Masculinities*, and *Equality Between Women and Men: From Inequality to Discrimination*. A total of 203 participants were reached (92 male and 111 female).



In terms of commemorative activities marking specific dates, the municipality of Grândola, either independently or in partnership, promotes annual initiatives to raise awareness and foster gender equality. These actions highlight ongoing gender inequalities in society, work to dismantle stereotypes, and advocate for the eradication of gender-based violence – paving the way towards a more equal society.

The decentralised response of the *Victim Support Service under the (des)Igualdades* project, along with the *Psychological Support Service for Children and Young People* who are victims of domestic violence, have proven to be key tools in the fight against gender-based violence. In 2024, both services delivered responses achieving 100% in terms of safety, empowerment, and autonomy. Despite all the efforts made in the name of gender equality, there is still a long way to go – a path that, fortunately, continues to be pursued collectively by various entities and stakeholders.

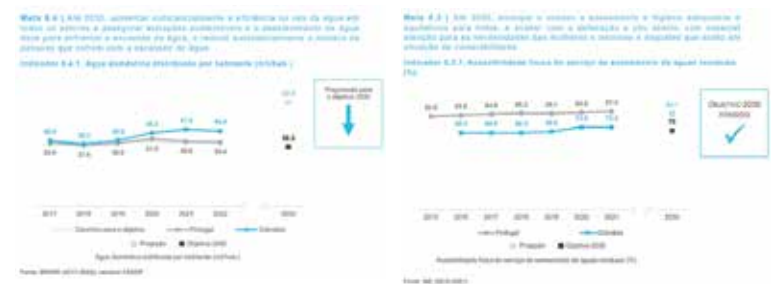


### SDG 6 Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is a strategic priority for the territory of Grândola, crucial for improving the population's quality of life and preserving local water resources. The municipality has consistently invested in projects that strengthen universal access to drinking water, increase the efficiency of distribution infrastructures and promote the expansion and upgrading of drainage and sanitation networks. Said investments demonstrate a clear commitment to the goals of SDG 6 and to the environmental sustainability of the municipality.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's overall score for SDG 6 shows varied progress depending on the specific targets and indicators assessed. With regard to Target 6.4, which concerns increasing water-use efficiency across all sectors, ensuring sustainable withdrawals and freshwater supply to address water scarcity, and reducing the number of people affected by water shortages, the municipality is moving away from the desired trajectory. Indicator 6.4.1,







CANALIZAÇÕES NO CONCELHO

which measures the amount of domestic water distributed per inhabitant ( $\text{m}^3/\text{inhab.}$ ), raises concerns, highlighting the need to review local practices and policies to reverse this trend.

On the other hand, the situation is more favourable regarding Target 6.2, which aims to achieve, by 2030, access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all – with particular attention to the needs of women, girls, and vulnerable populations. Grândola has already met the target associated with this goal, as shown by Indicator 6.2.1, which assesses physical access to wastewater sanitation services (%). This progress reflects an effective commitment to public health and to improving the living conditions of the local population in this specific area.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Among the projects already completed or currently underway, notable examples include the improvement of water distribution system efficiency in Melides (2023), the expansion of the Valinho da Estrada water distribution network (2025), and the extension of domestic wastewater drainage networks (2023). At the same time, priority has been given to extending the water supply network in Água Derramada (2023), strengthening the water supply from Melides to Valinho da Estrada (2018), and the rehabilitation of pavement structure with replacement of the water supply pipeline in Azinheira de Barros (2022).

Other relevant projects include wastewater management in Alameda da Feira de Agosto (2022), the extension of the stormwater drainage collector in Carvalhal (2023), and the renovation of sanitation and water supply infrastructure in Azinheira dos Barros (2023). The replacement of the water supply network in Vale Gamito (2024), as well as the creation of a water supply system with remote management in Jardim 1.º de Maio (2019) also showcase the municipality's effort to modernise and ensure the sustainability of its water systems.

Said projects have a direct impact on improving access to drinking water and on the efficient management of wastewater, promoting public health, environmental protection, and territorial cohesion. The municipality's strategic action in the scope of SDG 6 therefore represents a decisive contribution to fulfilling global commitments to sustainable development, reinforcing Grândola's role as a territory committed to sustainability and the well-being of its population.



### SDG 7

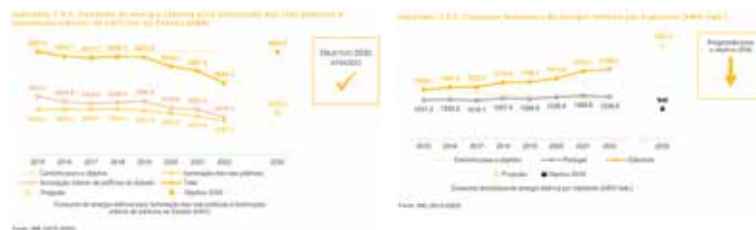
#### Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

Ensuring access to sustainable and modern energy sources for all is one of the core pillars of sustainable development and represents a strategic priority for the municipality of Grândola. Energy plays a key role in nearly all of today's challenges and opportunities – from job creation and food production to climate change mitigation and the promotion of fairer incomes. Access to sustainable energy is therefore an opportunity that drives economies and contributes to the protection of the planet.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

With regard to the indicators, the municipality shows good results, particularly in the consumption of electricity for public street lighting and state-owned buildings (indicator 7.3.3), reflecting a more efficient and rational use of energy. However, challenges remain, as highlighted by indicator 7.3.4, which measures the proportion of buildings with energy certification in classes A to C. Here, the results are less favourable, pointing to the need to strengthen actions aimed at improving the energy performance of buildings.

At the national level, data show a positive trajectory across several SDG 7 targets. Portugal has already achieved the goal of



increasing the share of renewable energy in total energy production (indicator 7.2.1), with values exceeding 60%. Additionally, 59% of municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, demonstrating local engagement in tackling climate change and promoting energy efficiency.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

In Grândola, several initiatives have been developed to meet the targets of SDG 7. Among the local practices worth highlighting is the implementation of a Self-Consumption Energy Production Unit at the Municipal Sports Complex. A study is also underway to create a collective self-consumption system that will include several municipal buildings, thereby promoting energy efficiency and the transition to cleaner, renewable energy sources.

The projects implemented in Grândola under SDG 7 have a direct impact on improving local energy sustainability. By investing in renewable energy self-production and optimising energy consumption, the municipality not only contributes to reducing energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions, but also strengthens the territory's energy resilience. These actions are part of a broader sustainable development strategy, reflecting an active commitment to the SDGs and positioning Grândola as an example of a territory dedicated to energy transition and the construction of a more sustainable future for its entire population.

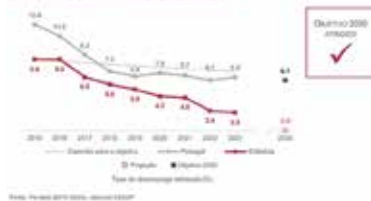


8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

**SDG 8**  
Promote  
Sustained,  
Inclusive and  
Sustainable  
Economic  
Growth, Full  
and Productive  
Employment  
and Decent  
Work for All

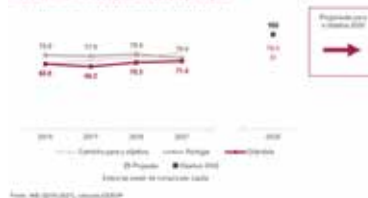
Promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, as well as ensuring full and productive employment and decent work for all, are the main goals of SDG 8. This objective takes on particular importance in a context where, despite economic growth in many countries, millions of people still live in poverty, are unemployed, or work in precarious conditions, lacking security, rights, or fair pay. SDG 8 therefore aims to ensure that economic development benefits the entire population in a fair and lasting way.

Indicador 8.5.1(a): Taxa de desemprego estimada (%)



Nota: 8.5.1: Sustentar o crescimento económico por capita de acordo com as circunstâncias nacionais e, em particular, um crescimento anual de pelo menos 7% do produto interno bruto (PIB) nos países menos desenvolvidos

Indicador 8.5.2: Índice de poder de compra per capita



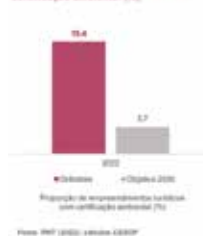
Indicador 8.5.3: Reconhecido por prémios de turismo sustentável

NÃO \*

32% dos municípios portugueses receberam pelo menos um prémio de turismo sustentável

Fonte: ABAE/Rede Europeia de Turismo Sustentável (2020); dados CESOP

Indicador 8.5.4: Proporção de empreendimentos turísticos com certificação ambiental (%)



## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The implementation of said actions aligns with the global targets of SDG 8, particularly Target 8.5, which aims to achieve, by 2030, full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men – including young people and persons with disabilities – and equal pay for work of equal value.

Regarding local indicators:

Indicator 8.5.1(a) – Average monthly earnings (€): The target set for 2030 is €13,338.90. The municipality is on track to meet this goal, with progress considered sufficient.

Indicator 8.5.2(a) – Estimated unemployment rate (%): The 2030 target has already been achieved.

On the other hand, Target 8.1, which aims to sustain per capita economic growth and ensure a minimum annual GDP growth of 7% in the least developed countries, is monitored through Indicator 8.1.2 – Per capita purchasing power index. In this regard, the municipality has not yet recorded significant progress toward the 2030 targets.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

In Grândola, the municipality has been developing initiatives that reflect a strong commitment to the targets of SDG 8, with a focus on promoting productive investment, creating qualified employment, and improving working conditions.

Among the key projects is the Business Support Office, which provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs, investors, and business owners, particularly in accessing funding opportunities. This structure helps to strengthen local economic activity by promoting investment and enhancing workforce training, with a direct impact on the creation and retention of jobs, especially specialised roles, thus reinforcing the business fabric of the municipality. In the area of support for local commerce, the *Eu Compro em Grândola* programme stands out. Designed to revitalise traditional retail and stimulate the local economy, the initiative offers



PROGRAMA «EU COMPRO EM GRÂNDOLA»

an annual financial incentive of €10,000, divided across two editions. It encourages spending in participating businesses by awarding vouchers for every €15 spent. These vouchers can be entered into prize draws for coupons worth between €100 and €1,000, redeemable exclusively at local shops. This programme contributes to the sustainability of small family-run businesses and helps preserve employment in the trade and service sectors, promoting self-employment and improved working conditions. The policies and projects implemented in the municipality of Grândola under SDG 8 have contributed to strengthening the local economy, generating skilled employment, and enhancing labour conditions. These actions represent a clear commitment to building a fairer, more sustainable, and economically dynamic territory, reaffirming the municipality's alignment with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and its dedication to improving the quality of life for its population.



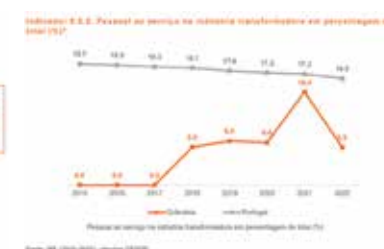
### SDG 9 Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation and Foster Innovation

Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and the promotion of innovation are the main goals of SDG 9. This objective is particularly relevant in a context where well-guided industrialisation plays a decisive role in job creation, economic diversification, and the reduction of regional inequalities. SDG 9 seeks to ensure that industrial development contributes to sustainable and equitable economic growth, strengthens territorial resilience, and fosters innovative technological and environmental solutions.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The implementation of these actions aligns with the goals of SDG 9, particularly:

Goal 9.2 – Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and, by 2030, significantly increase industry's share of employment and GDP. This target has already been achieved in the municipality of Grândola.





ZIL

Goal 9.4 – Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean technologies. In this area, the municipality is progressing positively toward achieving the target by 2030.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

In Grândola, the municipality has been developing a strategy focused on strengthening the local economic base through infrastructure modernisation and by creating favourable conditions for the establishment of innovative industries and businesses. One of the most significant projects in this field is the development of infrastructure and the launch of the allotment procedure for Phase 3 of the Grândola Light Industrial Zone (ZIL).

The creation and expansion of the ZIL responds to the need to increase the municipality's competitiveness by reducing its dependency on sectors such as tourism and aerospace, while promoting industrialisation aligned with local resources. The municipal strategy ensures that this industrial area can host processing units linked to the primary sector – agriculture, forestry, or extraction – adding value based on local raw materials. This

approach allows companies to operate in a favourable environment, with access to quality resources, direct distribution channels, and reduced costs, contributing to their sustainability and stimulating the local business fabric.

To ensure equal access to the available land, two separate groups of lots were defined for Phase 3 of the ZIL. The first group, with greater municipal incentives, was aimed at light processing industries aligned with the goal of enhancing local production. The second group, also supported by the municipality, was open to all industrial activities compatible with the nature of the area, thus broadening the range of potential investors and promoting economic diversity.

By 2030, the municipality aims to complete Phase 3 of the ZIL and create the necessary conditions for the development of a Phase 4, consolidating its strategy for sustainable industrialisation. Plans are also in place for the development of a Logistics Platform, with the objective of attracting large companies and enabling the installation of export industries and distribution centres. This infrastructure will leverage Grândola's strategic geographical location, at the intersection of two key logistical and economic corridors: the Sines – Grândola – Beja – Spain axis and the Lisbon – Grândola – Algarve axis. The proximity of the motorway and railway to both the ZIL and the future logistics platform further enhances their potential. In terms of railway transport, the main challenge remains its frequency and efficiency.

The initiatives undertaken within the framework of SDG 9 have helped strengthen the productive capacity of Grândola, attract industrial investment, and create conditions for a more innovative and resilient economy. The investment in modern infrastructure, aligned with sustainability and the enhancement of local resources, allows for the diversification of economic activity, the creation of skilled jobs, and the improvement of territorial competitiveness. These investments position Grândola as a forward-looking territory, aligned with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and dedicated to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.





## SDG 10 Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries

Promoting the implementation of SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities — requires a multifaceted effort to ensure no one is left behind. Social inclusion, combating misinformation, protecting vulnerable groups, and ensuring equal access to education, employment, and leisure opportunities are all key to achieving this goal.



PROJECTO «O MUNDO À NOSSA MESA»

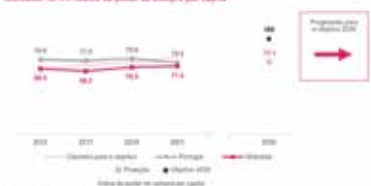
Indicador 10.2.2. Existência de praias acessíveis a pessoas com mobilidade reduzida



Fonte: INE (2010-2023), observação GSDGP

Meta 10.9 (1 de 2030, progressivamente alcançada): a inclusão de todas as pessoas, o crescimento do rendimento dos 40% da população mais pobre e um ritmo maior do que a da média nacional

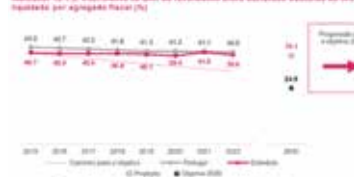
Indicador 10.9.1. Índice de poder de compra por capita



Fonte: INE (2010-2023), observação GSDGP

Meta 10.9 (2 de 2030, progressivamente alcançada): a inclusão de todas as pessoas, o crescimento do rendimento dos 40% da população mais pobre e um ritmo maior do que a da média nacional

Indicador 10.9.2. Suficiência do QIPI de rendimento bruto nacional dividido do PIB ajustado por população total (%)



Fonte: INE (2010-2023), observação GSDGP

Meta 10.9 (3 de 2030, progressivamente alcançada): a inclusão de todas as pessoas, o crescimento do rendimento dos 40% da população mais pobre e um ritmo maior do que a da média nacional

Indicador 10.7.2. Existência de Planos Municipais e setoriais para a integração de imigrantes e de projetos locais de integração de imigrantes



Fonte: INE (2010-2023), observação GSDGP

Meta 10.9 (4 de 2030, progressivamente alcançada): a inclusão de todas as pessoas, o crescimento do rendimento dos 40% da população mais pobre e um ritmo maior do que a da média nacional

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

In 2024, Grândola recorded a global score of 77.8 for SDG 10, making it one of the highest in the region – surpassed only by SDG 7 (80.7) and SDG 6 (91.9). When compared to the Alentejo region and Portugal as a whole, Grândola scored over 27 and 20 percentage points higher, respectively.

The overall trend towards the 2030 target is positive. Noteworthy are the presence of accessible beaches for people with reduced mobility (indicator 10.2.2) and a gradual improvement in the ratio between the average disposable income of top and bottom

income quintiles. However, indicators such as 10.1.1 (purchasing power index per capita) and 10.1.2 (Gini coefficient of declared gross income minus PIT per household) have shown little change, posing challenges to achieving the target by 2030.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

With a significant rise in immigration and an increasingly diverse local population, reducing inequalities is a strategic priority in Grândola.

The Rental Support Programme plays a crucial role in assisting low-income families in securing decent housing in the private rental market.

Socially, CLDS 5G, particularly through the implementation of measures under Axis 2, directly targets social exclusion. It prioritizes households with low incomes and children, aiming to improve their integration and living conditions.

During the Universal Declaration of Human Rights anniversary celebrations, events such as *O Mundo à Nossa Mesa* and the discussion forum *Conversas em Palco* – organized by the municipality in partnership with the SDG team, Grândola's Social Network, and the *emRaíz'Artes* project – exemplify the ongoing, diverse, and collaborative work throughout the year aimed at reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind.



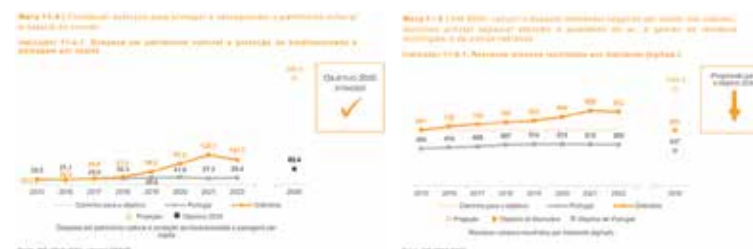
## SDG 11 Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

SDG 11 highlights the key role that cities and communities play in promoting sustainable development. Access to quality, affordable housing, investment in culture and leisure, transport networks, and other infrastructure adapted to local realities are all key components in creating inclusive, resilient urban environments.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's overall performance in SDG 11 has shown modest improvements, mirroring trends observed in the Alentejo region and Portugal more broadly. However, SDG 11 continues to present some of the lowest overall scores nationally — in 2023, Grândola scored 38.4, compared to 36.4 in the Alentejo and just 27.3 nationally.

One notable success is Indicator 11.4.1, which measures per ca-







NÚCLEO MUSEOLÓGICO GRÂNDOLA, VILA MORENA

pita expenditure on cultural heritage and the protection of biodiversity and landscape. Grândola has exceeded the target value for this indicator consistently since 2020.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

A major investment in both tangible and intangible heritage has been made visible through the creation of the Polynuclear Municipal Museum of Grândola, which was fully established in 2024 and 2025. It includes the opening of the Grândola, Vila Morena Museological Centre, dedicated to the poem-song that became a symbol of freedom, and the Casa Frayões Metellos Ethnography Centre.

At a time when the municipality is experiencing significant real estate pressure, the Local Housing Strategy has become a vital tool in guiding public policy and action in the housing sector. Its strategic objectives range from rehabilitating and upgrading existing housing stock to developing new housing solutions, particularly targeting young people and low-income families.



## SDG 12 Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns is the primary goal of SDG 12. This target seeks to address the environmental and social challenges linked to intensive use of natural resources, waste production, and pollution by promoting more responsible and circular development models. The transition to sustainable practices is essential to protect ecosystems, conserve resources for future generations, and improve people's quality of life.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Said actions align with Target 12.4, which aimed, by 2020, to ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, minimising their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. They are also in line with Target 12.5, which aims to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse by 2030.





MERCADO MUNICIPAL DE GRÂNDOLA

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

In the municipality of Grândola, a range of strategic measures has been implemented to promote more efficient and environmentally sound waste management. These align with the objectives of the General Waste Management Regime and national and international sustainability commitments. The actions aim to reduce the consumption of natural resources, prevent waste generation, and encourage reuse, valorisation, and integration into the circular economy.

In partnership with AMBILITAL, the municipality is developing its Action Plan under the Strategic Urban Waste Plan, with the goal of meeting national and European recycling targets by 2030. Key areas of intervention include reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill, raising public awareness around more sus-

tainable consumption practices, encouraging local valorisation of bio-waste, and improving selective collection efficiency.

Environmental communication and education play a key role in this strategy, serving as essential tools to promote sustainable behaviours and reduce waste. The municipality runs awareness campaigns, supports material reuse projects, and tackles food waste across the supply chain – from production to consumption. A flagship initiative is the Grândola Municipal Market, which operates as a hub for economic activity, environmental awareness, and local production. It supports local produce distribution and encourages sustainable consumption, directly reducing food waste. The market also hosts environmental education activities and promotes circular practices, strengthening the link between sustainability and the local economy.

Among the ongoing projects is *A Horta vai à Vila*, a municipal initiative that promotes good agricultural practices and encourages organic farming. This project supports local producers by providing visibility and market opportunities, contributing to the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of agriculture. The Community Gardens project has also had a significant impact by fostering composting practices, allowing growers to produce healthy food while preserving natural resources such as water, soil, and energy.

The actions carried out by the municipality of Grândola have contributed to more sustainable waste management, with a direct impact on reducing the amount of urban waste sent to landfill. The promotion of local composting helps divert organic waste from conventional circuits, lowering the total volume of solid waste per capita. These efforts represent a significant step in the transition to a more efficient, environmentally responsible circular economy, firmly aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

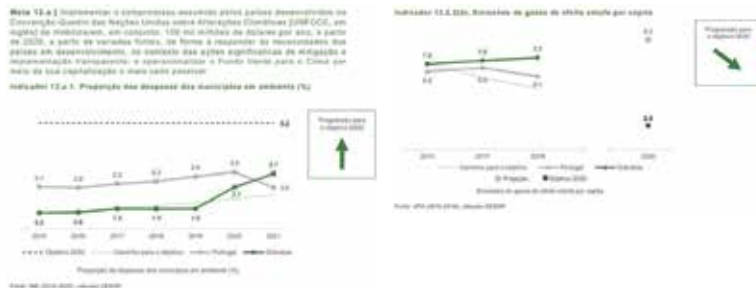


### SDG 13 Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

In a global context where the effects of climate change are increasingly evident and have direct impacts on territories and populations, the local response to climate change plays a crucial role. Sustainable Development Goal 13 calls for urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts, requiring coordinated, sustained, and informed action in both mitigation and adaptation. In the municipality of Grândola, several projects have been developed that directly or educationally address this issue, reflecting the municipality's commitment to environmental sustainability in light of climate challenges.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The data reflect a mixed picture, with varying performances across the indicators assessed. Concerning Target 13.a, which sets out to mobilise 100 billion dollars annually from developed countries to support climate action in developing nations, Indicator 13.a.1 – proportion of municipal expenditure on environment (%) – shows that Grândola has made positive progress. Data from 2015 to 2021 reveal a growing trend in the allocation of municipal resources to environmental matters, gradually



approaching the goal set for 2030. This performance is considered sufficient for the municipality to achieve the defined target, demonstrating an increasing commitment to environmental protection at the local level.

By contrast, Indicator 13.2.2(b), which relates to greenhouse gas emissions per capita, shows that Grândola is moving away from the desired path. Data for 2015, 2017 and 2019 show fluctuations in values, but per capita emissions remain high and above the national average, indicating the need for more effective mitigation measures and a transition to a less carbon-intensive economy. This divergence from the desired trajectory calls for a reassessment of local sustainability and energy planning policies.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

Among the initiatives implemented is the reforestation of the Montinho da Ribeira Eco Park, carried out in 2021, aimed at the ecological restoration of natural areas and directly contributing to carbon sequestration and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. In parallel, the involvement of the school community in the Eco-Schools project, in partnership with the Grândola Rural Development Professional School, represents a solid commitment to environmental education, fostering climate literacy from an early age.

The continuous monitoring of the biological lake and the Jardim 1.º de Maio – green spaces integrated into natural ecosystems and featuring native species – enables not only the tracking of local biodiversity but also the development of nature-based strategies for climate change adaptation.

Simultaneously, awareness and environmental education campaigns have been carried out for the general population, reinforcing collective awareness of the impacts of climate change and the importance of individual and community action. In this regard, the Blue Flag Programme is particularly significant, promoting the sustainability of coastal areas and encouraging responsible environmental practices.





LAGO DO JARDIM 1.º DE MAIO

Said initiatives contribute to three key pillars of climate action: mitigation of emissions through reforestation; adaptation of the territory to new climate conditions by enhancing natural ecosystems; and environmental education as a vital tool to foster sustainable behaviour and an active, informed citizenry. The municipality of Grândola is thus playing a proactive role in building a more resilient, sustainable territory that is prepared for future challenges.



### SDG 14 Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources

Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources are crucial for the health of the planet and the well-being of future generations. In the municipality of Grândola, various initiatives have been developed with the aim of protecting marine ecosystems, reducing pollution in coastal areas (especially that caused by plastics), and promoting environmental education focused on the preservation of the marine

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's performance on SDG 14 shows positive and consistent results aligned with the set targets. Regarding Indicator 14.1.2, which measures the percentage of bathing waters rated as excellent, Grândola has shown exemplary results. From 2015 to 2023, the municipality consistently maintained a 100% score, far exceeding the national average and fully achieving the 2030 target. This result reflects effective management of coastal water quality, with direct impacts on public health, tourism, and the preservation of local marine ecosystems.

For Target 14.5, which addresses the incorporation of climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and plans,







BANDEIRA AZUL

performance is evaluated through Indicator 14.5.1, which measures the proportion of the extended continental shelf covered by Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). According to the 2023 Audit of Protected Areas, 8.9% of Portugal's Extended Continental Shelf is currently covered by MPAs. Although this figure applies at the national level, it signals the country's commitment to marine conservation and climate change mitigation – principles also reflected in local policies when well-aligned. Continuing and strengthening these measures is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of marine and coastal resources.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

Among the most relevant projects is the Eco-Schools programme, which in one of its editions focused specifically on the theme of the sea and oceans. Through this programme, students, as well as teachers are encouraged to reflect on the impacts of human activity on marine environments and to implement sustainable actions within and beyond the school setting. Environmental education campaigns have also been promoted,

with a particular focus on themed exhibitions about the sea and the issue of plastic pollution. Said initiatives aim to raise community awareness of the harmful effects of marine litter, encouraging the reduction of single-use plastics and greater respect for coastal habitats.

The municipality also participates in the Blue Flag Programme, which reflects a commitment to the environmental quality of beaches and to raising awareness about the preservation of natural coastal resources. This programme reinforces the importance of monitoring and responsible management of bathing areas, promoting the conservation of ecosystems while supporting sustainable tourism.

Although these actions are mainly educational and preventative, they play a key role in achieving the goals of SDG 14. They contribute to the protection of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of ocean resources, adopting a long-term perspective that strengthens the municipality of Grândola's commitment to environmental sustainability and the preservation of coastal natural heritage.

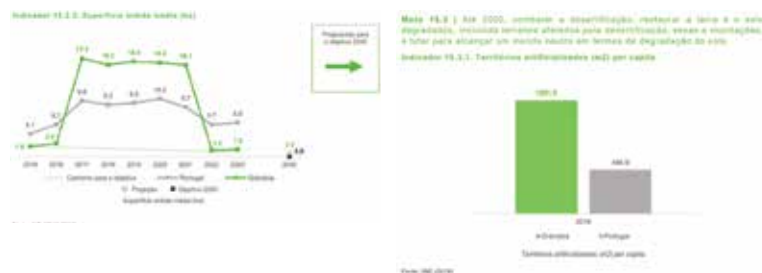


**SDG 15**  
Protect, Restore  
and Promote  
Sustainable Use  
of Terrestrial  
Ecosystems

Protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems are among the environmental priorities of the municipality of Grândola, which has been developing various initiatives with a direct impact on biodiversity conservation and natural habitat protection. By combining practical action with environmental education, the region strengthens its commitment to the objectives of SDG 15.

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

The assessment of the municipality of Grândola reveals significant challenges, particularly regarding forest management and sustainable land use. Indicator 15.2.2, which measures the average burned area (in hectares), shows consistent levels without significant variation since 2022. Between 2015 and 2023, the values fluctuated with some peaks, generally remaining above the national average. This performance highlights the territory's



vulnerability to wildfires and points to the urgent need to strengthen prevention, surveillance, and recovery strategies for affected areas.

Regarding Target 15.3, which aims to tackle desertification, restore degraded land, and achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, the data available for Indicator 15.3.1 – artificialised land (m<sup>2</sup> per capita) – places Grândola in an unfavourable position. In 2018, the municipality reported a value of 1,201.0 m<sup>2</sup> per capita, substantially above the national average of 460.9 m<sup>2</sup> per capita. This indicator reflects a high degree of artificial land use per inhabitant, possibly associated with urban pressure or infrastructure expansion, posing increased risks to natural ecosystems and the municipality's environmental resilience. Addressing soil degradation therefore requires a thorough reassessment of land use and spatial planning policies – a process already underway.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Within the framework of the Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy duly approved by the municipality, the following objectives were established:

1. Build water resilience and mitigate major environmental risks;
2. Incorporate knowledge to preserve natural capital;
3. Reverse desertification and rural abandonment;
4. Promote the circular economy and energy efficiency.

In pursuit of these goals, the following initiatives and actions have been proposed:

Integrated action in Grândola includes a range of measures focused on climate change mitigation and environmental protection. These measures involve the creation of green corridors along urban roads, the implementation of local mobility plans, the development of strategies to ensure water supply security, the enhancement of ecosystem services and biodiversity, and the preparation of a Municipal Climate Change Plan.





EXTRACÇÃO DE CORTIÇA

In parallel, to promote and revitalise rural activities, the municipality encourages vocational training in the agricultural sector, organises fairs and events to facilitate knowledge exchange between young people and farmers, supports the “produce locally, consume locally” strategy, and promotes local products, including artisanal goods, agri-food items, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

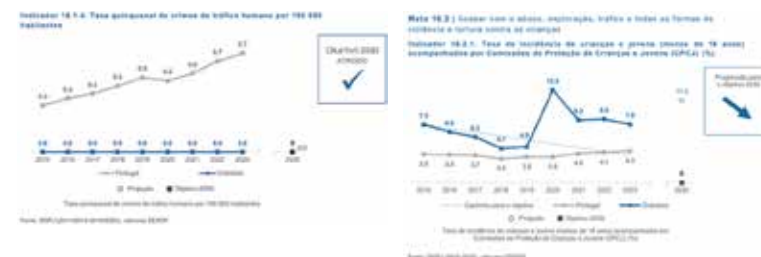


**SDG 16**  
Promote  
Peaceful and  
Inclusive  
Societies,  
Provide Access  
to Justice for  
All and Build  
Effective,  
Accountable  
and Inclusive  
Institutions

To promote a peaceful and sustainable society in Grândola, it is essential to tackle violence, protect the most vulnerable, as well as ensure access to justice for all. This requires local institutions that are more effective, accountable, and closer to citizens, with transparent public policies and realistic budgets. Guaranteeing the registration of all children at birth and strengthening human rights protection mechanisms are fundamental steps towards building a fairer and more inclusive municipality.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's performance under SDG 16 – which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective and accountable institutions – has shown positive evolution across several indicators. Regarding Indicator 16.1.4, which measures the five-year rate of human trafficking







COMEMORAÇÕES DO DIA DA CRIANÇA

crimes per 100,000 inhabitants, data from the Directorate-General for Justice Policy, calculated by CESOP, indicates that Grândola maintained a zero rate between 2015 and 2017. From 2018 onwards, gradual increases were recorded, reaching 0.7 in both 2022 and 2023. However, the projection for 2030 again points to a 0.0 rate, suggesting effective efforts in preventing and combating this crime.

Concerning Target 16.2, which proposes to eliminate all forms of violence against children, Indicator 16.2.1 shows a positive trend. In 2015, the rate of children and young people under 18 monitored by the Grândola CPCJ (Commission for the Protection of Children and Young People) was 11.2%, progressively decreasing to between 3.2% and 4.3% between 2017 and 2023. These figures reflect the continued work of local structures to protect the rights of children and young people in the municipality.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE

The celebration of Children's Day in 2025 in Grândola was a concrete example of efforts to promote active community partici-



COMEMORAÇÕES DO DIA DA CRIANÇA

pation and strengthen trust in public institutions, which are core principles of SDG 16. Said initiative involved several municipal departments and the Grândola School Group, engaging all primary school classes in creating an exhibition dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The exhibition, featuring phrases written by the students themselves, aimed to raise awareness among the community about global challenges and the role of every citizen in building a fairer, more inclusive, and peaceful society. This educational approach fostered values of citizenship, social responsibility, and cooperation, encouraging dialogue and respect across generations. Through this and other initiatives, carried out in partnership with networks such as CESOP-Local, RICD, Mayors for Peace, and Municipalities for Peace, as well as twinning with various national and international municipalities, Grândola reaffirms its commitment to open, participatory, and effective institutions. These initiatives contribute significantly to the achievement of SDG 16 by promoting a culture of peace, inclusion, and good governance at the local level.

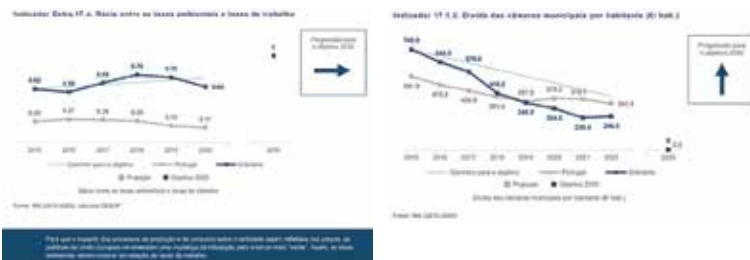




**SDG 17**  
Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## WHAT THE DATA SHOW

Grândola's score for this goal has steadily increased over the last four years, reaching 72.1 in 2024. Regarding the ratio between environmental taxes and employment taxes, there has been a slight decline in the past two years, moving the municipality further from achieving this target. However, there is a notable rise in environmental awareness among companies investing in the municipality, which could help reverse this trend by increasing the proportion of environmental taxes.



In terms of municipal debt per capita, there has been a significant reduction since 2015. In fact, the municipality paid off all its medium – and long-term debt in 2023. Grândola now ranks as the 11th municipality in the country with the highest level of financial independence – and 2nd among small municipalities – with 76.4% of its total revenue coming from its own sources (2023 data).

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

The municipality has long been building partnerships to support public policies across the various areas under its responsibility. As a founding member or participant, Grândola is part of several networks, including the Aliança ODS – Portugal, the International Association of Educating Cities, the Portuguese Healthy Cities Network, the Intermunicipal Cooperation Network for Development, CESOP-Local Network, Mayors for Peace, as well as the Municipalities for Peace Network. In the field of development cooperation, Grândola has twinning agreements with the municipality of Tarrafal, on the island of Santiago in Cape Verde, and with the municipality of Santarém, based on the shared legacy of the April 25th Revolution. The municipality also has cooperation agreements with the Rhein-Kreis Neuss District in Germany. More recently, the Grândola Municipal Sustainability Council was created to ensure coordination and shared responsibility and resources among the institutions involved. This body is committed to the full realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets, working toward a more prosperous, just, fraternal, and inclusive world, where no one is left behind.

Among the many objectives of the Council, the following stand out:

- Proposing and implementing public awareness initiatives on the importance of the SDGs;
- Actively collaborating in the development of Local Voluntary Reports;
- Promoting conscious citizenship by upholding freedom, democracy, and human rights, contributing to the development of critical and participative citizens.

## 5. [FROM VISION TO ACTION]

The collaborative process behind the creation of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) was born from an expressed and committed will of the municipal executive, carried out by Grândola's SDG team. This team promoted and ensured the involvement of the entire municipal structure, civil society, academia – from preschool to senior university, including higher education – and the private sector.

The adopted approach combined the analysis, reflection, and planning of public policies both vertically – from top to bottom and, importantly, from bottom to top – and horizontally, by actively engaging all stakeholders. This dynamic, always guided by the central question “What future do we want for Grândola?”, began with a first phase – *Advocating for the SDGs* – which involved adopting sustainable development as a universal language and the UN 2030 Agenda as a roadmap for the future. It was followed by a second phase – *Planning for the SDGs*. Considering the UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Programme, the next step is materialization.

This phase involves integrating the SDGs into local strategies and setting priorities through concrete projects within an action plan, ensuring the inseparability and full articulation of the three dimensions – social, environmental, and economic – underpinned by inclusive and participatory governance.

### DATA

Given that effective management relies on the ability to measure progress, the methodology for localising the SDGs incorporates monitoring through targets and indicators. This approach enables the analysis of local progress over time and allows for comparisons at municipal, national, and global levels. For the development of the VLR, the data framework established by the Catholic University – CESOP Local was adopted. The indicators developed by this institution facilitated an accelerated analytical localisation process, grounded in quantifiable data. Despite the progress made, there are still gaps in the information available, both locally and in the national and international contexts. The collection and analysis of data, which is essential to support decision-making, will continue on an ongoing basis. It is hoped that there will be a progressive integration of data resulting from demand – especially those associated with land management and natural resources – and those made available by national and international institutions.

### FUTURE CHALLENGES

The philosophy underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), combined with the awareness that social, environmental, and economic challenges require more ambitious forms of collaboration, serves as a vital stimulus to overcoming obstacles inherent in any transformation process. The adopted strategy focuses on simplifying complex dynamics and mobilizing actors aligned with the SDGs – true catalysts of the necessary conditions for Sustainable Development to become a continuous and consistent process.

Recognizing the importance of motivated, cooperative individuals focused on future generations and the protection of the planet, this spirit materializes with the transition from the SDG team to the Grândola SDG Lab, ensuring the achievement of established goals through a dedicated local team.

## 6. [THE FUTURE WE DESIRE]

**A**s a roadmap for Sustainable Development, a Voluntary Local Review should be seen as a strategic document integrating all other territorial strategic plans – namely, Grândola's recently approved Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development. In this light, Grândola's VLR serves as a planning legacy to be further developed through the VEP methodology (Visions – Strategies – Projects), aligned with an SDG Project Portfolio worthy of investment. This portfolio aims to attract partners aligned with the SDGs, always safeguarding the public interest, placing People first, protecting the Planet, and promoting Shared Prosperity – “leaving no one behind, nowhere.”

### LESSONS LEARNED

Despite being built on a participatory approach, the VLR's preparation undeniably requires mobilizing collective leadership capable of encouraging active community engagement. Sustainable solutions are built together and for everyone.

It also became evident that the Sustainable Development Goals must be viewed primarily as a source of inspiration – a notion reinforced by awareness campaigns conducted by the municipality in recent years, particularly targeting children and youth. Their joy and hope are critical in overcoming the inevitable obstacles of change and in helping make everyone's dreams come true.

Furthermore, recognizing the significance of the global movement is essential. Learning from other municipalities, cities, and regions that have already developed VLRs and fostering synergies across territories is vital. International recognition through

the VLR is meaningful – being a VLR municipality is both challenging and motivating, as it entails continuous benchmarking with global frontrunners and emulating their best practices.

### THE GLOBALIZATION OF LOCALIZATION

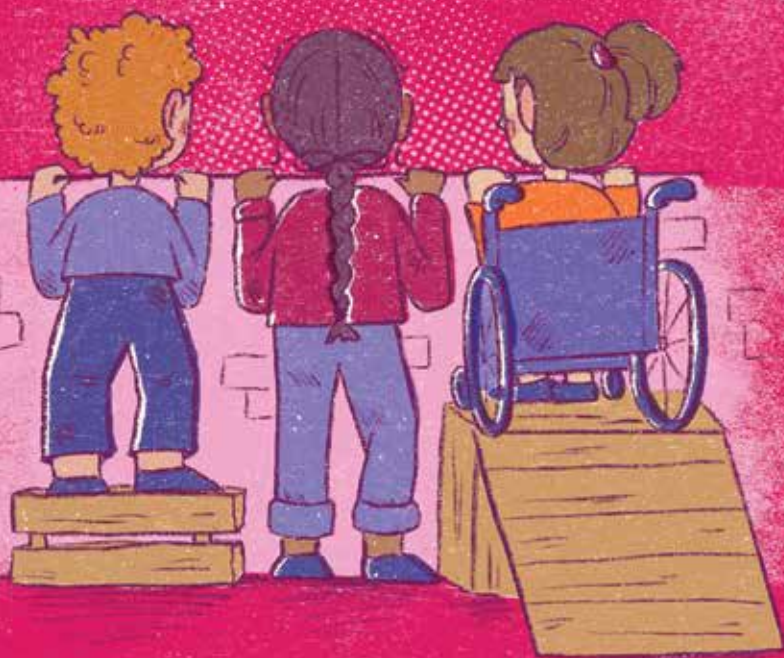
In addition to deepening ongoing efforts, the municipality intends to replicate this experience in other municipalities through peer-to-peer exchanges – particularly within the Lusophone Initiative of SDG Municipalities, which brings together all CPLP (Portuguese-speaking) countries, as well as through participation in the Intermunicipal Cooperation Network for Development and the CESOP-Local Network. The municipality also aims to share and learn from other VLR municipalities through various UN forums, such as the High-Level Political Forum, the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, the Forum of Mayors, and the World Urban Forum.

### AN UNSTOPPABLE MOVEMENT

It was especially inspiring to witness the community's engagement in the VLR development, and the active, committed participation of primary school children in SDG promotion sessions. These ideals and core values were carried home, helping to raise awareness among older generations around the core principles of the Agenda. With their contagious energy, these children become true agents of change within civil society.

It is also worth highlighting the way the business sector has recognized the advantages of integrating Sustainable Development into its strategies, aligned with the social responsibility it seeks to assume and the resulting reinforcement of its market reputation. Therefore, this transformative spirit must be spread and multiplied, taking root in all spheres of society and across the territory. From those who envision and plan to those who decide and implement, we all have a vital role in building a fairer, more balanced, and more sustainable future.

**This is the path we must take!**







GRÂNDOLA  
MUNICÍPIO